



**Department
for Education**

**Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
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**Tel: 020 7340 8094
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28 January 2014

**Mr/Ms/Mrs Downs
By E-mail**

FOI REQUEST 2013/0067382

Dear Mr/Ms/Mrs Downs

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 26 October. You asked for the number and names of LA maintained schools where proven financial irregularities have taken place since September 2011 when the first free schools opened.

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I apologise for the long delay in responding to your request. Local authorities are responsible for oversight of finance and governance in maintained schools. On 14th November 2013, the Audit Commission published a report which showed that in 2012-13, there were 191 confirmed cases of fraud affecting maintained schools totalling £2.3 million. 86 of these cases, with a combined value of £1.9 million, involved internal fraud. The Audit Commission report is available at the following link –

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/2013/11/protecting-the-public-purse-2013>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely

**Fola Agwu
Academies and Maintained Schools Division
Education Funding Agency**